

PREPAREDNESS AND COMMON SENSE

Along with thousands of our citizens, I am deeply interested in the question of National defense. Like them, I am anxious to know the facts and to use whatever common sense I have in reaching a wise conclusion as to what we ought to do for our own protection. I am not stampeded, and I do not propose to be, but I do want the United States to take what precautions are reasonable in view of the facts. The situation looks to me like this:

Certain pacifists assure us that Preparedness is useless because there is no danger of war. Do they know, or are they merely asking us to accept their guess in a matter which vitally concerns the safety and welfare of the Nation? Millions of pacifists in the past have given the same assurance, and have been mistaken. Wars have come in spite of them. England was full of people who affirmed that the present war was impossible up to the very moment of its breaking out, and who opposed with all their might any increase in armament until war actually began.

The United States has already had five wars, each one of which was undesired and unexpected by great numbers of our people. For a year past our State Department has been occupied with questions which might lead to war. What if our present pacifists should in their turn prove to be wrong, and war should come and find us unprepared? It is a serious chance for any Nation, this gamble on their opinion, which the pacifists are asking us to take.

Preparedness is insurance against war. It is no militarism, and must not be confused with it. Militarism is making ready for aggressive war. Any one who believes that the people of the United States can be driven or dragged in to aggressive militarism must have forgotten the whole trend of our history, and in particular our recent voluntary retirement from Cuba.

It is nonsense to say that our people will plunge into militarism because they prepare themselves in order to discourage aggression. On that theory, no citizen should be allowed to own a gun, because guns can be used to kill people, or to insure his house, lest insurance should bring on a fire.

Here and there an extremist will make excessive and ridiculous proposals for Preparedness or against it. Such proposals should not be permitted to upset our judgment. They lead nowhere. We waste our time discussing them. For us the extremes of militarism and of non-resistance are equally out of the question. In sober fact, our final choice will lie not between any fantastic extremes, but between reasonable National defense and an imitation of it that will fail in the day of trial—between moderate genuine Preparedness and a sham. We may prepare too little, but there is no danger whatever that this country will rush to the other extreme.

The pacifists assure us that such military training as the Swiss people are giving themselves endangers democracy, and that our young men will be hurt by learning to obey. But neither democracy nor personal independence have been injured in Switzerland, which is the most democratic country in Europe. Universal military service in New Zealand and Australia goes hand in hand with the most thorough-going labor-controlled democracy on earth.

France, whose military training is far more thorough than ours will ever be, is the living proof that an army can be a great democratic institution, and that citizens trained to arms may possess the highest personal initiative and intelligence. Germany can not be offered as an example of what military training does to democracy, because Germany has never been democratic.

But even if all this were not true, it would still be idle to make a bogey of universal military service, because even those who believe in it most heartily understand that it has not the slightest chance of being adopted. No National leader in any political party is asking for its adoption. It is not an issue, and nothing less than the pressure of actual invasion could make it an issue in the United States.

The American people have a way of reaching common sense decisions after long and often bitter discussion. There is hope that this is about to happen in the present case. The reasonable advocates of National defense and the reasonable pacifists seem to be on the verge of a reasonable agreement of views. For example, the papers of April 23 report that Henry Ford said, in an interview given in New York: "I believe in reasonable Preparedness," and I wouldn't object to an army of say 250,000 men." Less

than a week before this statement of Ford's, I asked Colonel Roosevelt what he would consider reasonable Preparedness. He replied: "The second navy in the world and an army of 250,000 men."

In this case, pacifists and advocates of Preparedness are in agreement as to the size of a reasonable army. An army of 250,000 men means one soldier to every 430 people. There is one policeman to every 416 people in Philadelphia, and one to every 429 in New York. To me at least an army of that proportionate size carries with it no threat that militarism is about to overwhelm democracy.

As to the Navy, from 1905 to 1909, our Navy was the second in the world. Having it second did not endanger democracy then. I see no reason why it should endanger democracy now.

So far as I am aware no one familiar with naval affairs believes that submarines and mines at sea and guns on land, without a fleet, can be depended on to defend a coast like ours. The whole teaching of the present war shows that they can not. German submarines, it is true, have succeeded in preventing any increase in the British merchant marine by destroying vessels about as fast as new tonnage could be added. But that is all they have done. They have not even threatened, much less endangered, the supremacy of the British fleet. It is the British fleet which keeps England safe from invasion, just as our fleet must keep us safe.

It will not do, however, to forget that genuine Preparedness includes far more than arms. A navy and an army are not enough. In modern war nations fight not alone with weapons, but with all their natural resources, with their industry and transportation, and above all with the patriotic devotion of their citizens.

Rounded National Preparedness on modern lines works not only toward securing peace, but also toward making this country a better place to live in for all of us when peace has been secured. The great natural resources, like coal, iron, copper, and waterpower, are the raw materials of prosperity as well as the raw materials of National defense. They must be made available for use of the people both in peace and in war. But above and beyond all else, we must have a country defended against attack from within and without by equal opportunity and social justice—a country whose people will stand by it because it has stood by them.

Let no man imagine that because he lives inland he is safe from injury by war. The capture of New York or San Francisco would break the routes of trade, and the resulting dislocation of business would be felt in every home in the land. Farmer, miner, merchant, wage earner, employee—every man who works would find his livelihood in danger if the normal demand for labor and the products of labor were overturned by war.

I recognize that in the manufacture of munitions and supplies for war excessive profits are often found. I am in favor of eliminating them with a strong hand. But it seems to me as foolish to decide against National defense because there is graft as it would be to abolish the police force in any city because there is graft. The thing to do is to drive out the graft, and yet maintain the protection which is so necessary to all our people.

You and I are protected by our laws because behind the law there is force. International law has no force behind it. Some day, we hope and intend, it will be made unsafe to break the law of Nations. As yet, however, each Nation must still go unprotected or protect itself. Until the Nations unite together to enforce international law, our best hope for peace lies in making it dangerous for any Nation to attack us.

You and I belong to a great peace-loving people. We hate war and desire peace. We seek with eagerness for any means that will hasten the coming of permanent peace. We are ready to do everything that is just and honorable to secure it. Doubtless we join with every lover of peace in looking forward to the day when reason and understanding will settle or prevent disputes among the Nations. But the road to peace does not lie through flabby weakness, as the history of China proves, but through self-respecting strength. That is why I believe in National defense. The mere desire for peace, and the best intentions on our part, can not always secure peace. Among nations, as among men, it often takes but one to make a quarrel.

Last year I was in Belgium. What I saw there I shall never forget. No sacrifice can be too great to prevent our people or any part of them from being ruled by foreign bayonets. Talk is always cheap, but never cheaper

A VOICE FROM NORTHERN MEXICO

May 26, 1916.

Thermometer at 84 degrees with 10 degrees more still to climb ere the day is ended and the night breeze begins to blow. Bandits not much in evidence just now but merely laying low, and apt to show up anywhere at any time. No meat in the market on account of the exactions of the government as to the new issue of (probably) worthless currency that we are about to receive and have forced down our throats under penalty of imprisonment if we don't take it smilingly and with gusto. Intervention practically a fact, although Uncle Sam says that it's nothing of the kind,—only a punitive expedition.

All quiet on the Rio Grande (on the surface) but anxious hearts on both sides of the river, as we wait and wonder whether there will be war between the two countries,—and there you have the situation here. It is getting on my nerves, and that is the truth!

Half the trouble between the U. S. and Mexico is due to the complacent ignorance and indifference of most Americans to their next-door neighbors, in combination with the influence of a lot of pro-interventionists who don't care two whoops about right, truth or justice but are simply working for their own good, and don't care if the last Mexican is wiped off the face of the earth if they can make 50 per cent on the deal. The other half of the trouble is due to the Mexican leaders who are making a good thing out of the revolution, and their graft will be nil if peace is established and order reigns through Mexico.

It is the people who work trying to make an honest living who suffer the most. A few days ago an old friend called on me. He is major in Carranza's forces; he used to be a wheelwright here. He was so fat that at first I didn't recognize him and when I told him of it, he laughed and replied, "Stolen beef is very fattening."

It is really very unpleasant here just now with the sense of insecurity that we feel hanging over us. Do you remember that when father was in Nevada in the late 60's he once went on a fishing excursion for a few hours, and returned all right with a string of trout; but his companion failed to show up, and when they searched for him they found him dead and stripped by the Indians? Well, it is a good deal like that at present around here. It is not the soldiers of the government that have to be looked out for, but the risk of small bands of marauders calling themselves Villistas, or Felicistas, who are haunting the country and committing outrages and murders.

Some days ago two of us went fishing and had a very lazy mule to haul us. When we got back about an hour later than usual I found L— on the verge of hysterics from worry, as she feared that the bandits had got my number—and so it goes every day of late. A bunch of five bandits was captured at Z—, forty miles from here, who had murdered and robbed a Mexican gentleman. One of them was taken out by the graveyard and shot shortly after his capture. I don't know what has been done with the others. It is three miles to the river, and I am trying to get up courage to walk over there and try to catch some fish,—as meat is not to be had for love or money. The Rio Grande is only a hundred yards away, but I have to go to one of the tributaries to find fish.

Men* who are working here are on the verge of starvation with a wage of about \$16 per day in Carranza money, which comes to about 40 cents in gold.

*This refers to skilled artisans.

STARTING A BALKY HORSE

Of all vices that equine flesh is heir to, the most annoying to the average horse owner and driver is balking, or near balking, which consists in rearing or plunging when first asked to start, particularly after a few days' rest, or what is still worse, trying to start with a jump when only half hitched. The main reason that I think it is so aggravating is that so few know how to combat it. A balky horse has the

than when it sets guesses and wishes against the tremendous facts of the world war.

Guessing and wishing are no defense. Guessing and wishing can not even keep the peace between our citizens. The force behind the law does that. How then can we trust them to keep the peace between the Nations? I am for Preparedness because I believe it offers the best chance to escape war. It is cheap insurance at a price.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.

most sense, the confirmed runaway the least, of any horse.

I have bought more balky horses than those with any other vice for that reason. Once they are broken of balking, they make the best of horses, not afraid of the objects that usually scare those of other temperaments.

The little simple trick I am going to describe and that has proved so satisfactory in so many cases is not intended to break the horse of balking, which in most cases involves a lot of time, patience, and more or less thorough knowledge of horse nature, but rather to help those who have been caught, perhaps with a new horse that started away from home all right but has now balked, because the conditions under which he has balked before have again presented themselves.

The average driver, when caught in this way, starts in by petting and coaxing the horse and winds up by losing his temper and beating it until stopped by passers-by or some policeman.

A horse has only one idea in his head at a time, and in this case he has decided not to go any further with that particular load, and the coaxing and patting are not sufficient to cause him to think of anything else. The whipping only makes him more stubborn and determined not to move. Now we have got to find something that will give him something else to think about.

All horses, and mules more so than horses, hate to have their ears hampered. In fact no horse ever decides upon a different course of action without first moving its ears from the normal position, and here is the key to the whole idea. As soon as it balks get down from the seat and deliberately take one ear and push it under the crown piece of the bridle so that it is fast and leave the horse to its own devices for a few minutes. He will commence shaking his head and doing everything he can think of to get that ear loose, until he has forgotten all about balking and his whole thoughts are centered upon freeing that ear. Now let the driver get back on the wagon, call on the horse to start, and off he goes. I have proved this trick to be successful with cow-horses that thought it necessary to buck and pitch when first mounted in the morning, and with rears in the saddle and horses hard to hitch. Leave the ear where it is for about twenty minutes, then stop and free it. Let the horse have time to shake his head and be satisfied that everything it all right again, and off he will go as pleasantly as possible.

As I said before, this trick will not break a horse from balking, but it will invariably start one that has balked on the road, provided he hasn't already been whipped and abused to a point where nothing matters.—By Alfred H. Pope in "Our Dumb Animals."

ANNUAL MEETING OF BAND OF MERCY

The most crowded meeting ever held by the Band of Mercy took place on Friday afternoon at the Center School. The room was filled to its utmost capacity, with a number standing. The pledge was repeated as usual, the Band song was sung with fine effect, and the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Robert Brewster; vice-presidents, Helen Brewster, Beatrice Eddy, Mary Williams, Agnes Meyer; secretaries, Catherine Williams, Warren Adams.

A general discussion of the best ways to feed birds during the winter was held. A show of hands indicated that about fifty children in the town of Manchester make a regular practice of feeding the birds. This may have something to do with the fact that Manchester is fuller than usual of birds this year.

Plans were spoken of for a lawn party and play which may be given by the children of the Band later in the summer.

Special thanks are due the teachers for their kind and cordial help in arranging the meeting, and to Mary Williams, who arranged for the delegation from the Manchester school, and to the boys of the Center school, in Miss Marden's room, who were of great service in enlarging the seating capacity of the room.

Mr. and Mrs. Trunman Wissel and two-months-old baby of Burlington, had a narrow escape from what might have been a serious accident as they were motoring along the Colchester road, when the front spring broke, putting the steering gear out of order and sending the car down a 16-foot embankment. Mr. Wissel lost control and the machine turned to the right and went over the embankment. At the bottom it stopped, throwing him against the wheel, but injuring him only slightly. Mrs. Wissel suffered a bruised hip. The child, however, was uninjured.

ADEQUATE DEFENSE

Some National Deficiencies Brought Out by Catechism

Is the United States in danger from war?

President Wilson, speaking of the need of immediate action to improve our national defense, said recently: "Speaking with all solemnity, I assure you that there is not a day to be lost; not, understand me, because of any new or specially critical matter, but because I cannot tell twenty-four hours at a time whether there is going to be trouble or not."

"And whether there is or not does not depend upon what I do or what I say or upon what any man in the United States does or says. It depends upon what foreign governments do; what the commanders of ships at sea do; what those in charge of submarines do; upon the judgment of a score of men, big and little, hang the vital issues of peace or war for the United States."

What do we need to make our defenses adequate?

President Wilson says: "A navy impregnable to the navies of the world is the first need of this country."

"If the flame from a world on fire creeps in on us it may creep from both coasts. And here we are without enough ships to patrol them."

Speaking of the utter inadequacy of the United States Army, President Wilson says:

"I haven't had enough men to prevent Mexican bandits from raiding across the border of the United States. It has been a very mortifying situation, indeed."

What would national safety cost?

The visible wealth of the United States is estimated at 188 billion dollars. The highest yearly expense for preparedness that has been suggested is only one-half on one per cent—an outlay so small that you could never feel it.

Have past military expenditures proved a bad investment?

No. They protected the country while the national wealth increased from \$7,136,000,000 in 1850 to \$187,739,000,000 in 1915.

How does our fleet rank?

A few years ago our 3,000 miles of coast line were defended by the second largest navy. In 1916 President Wilson and authorities admit that it is fourth—and going down.

How does our Army rank?

Last, Ten foreign powers have well-trained and well-equipped armies of from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 men each. The nations now at war had at the outbreak of the war armies of the following strength: Germany, 5,500,000; Russia, 5,400,000; France, 5,300,000; Italy, 3,380,000; Great Britain and colonies about 2,000,000; Turkey, 1,928,000. Even the smaller countries, most of which are not as large as any one of our small states, had armies many times larger than the United States Army. Belgium had an army of 350,000; Bulgaria one of 450,000 and Serbia one of 500,000. Thus Belgium, with 350,000 well-equipped soldiers, have been practically wiped out.

Why can't we have a Navy and Army big enough to afford us protection?

Because, perhaps, your own Congressmen and Senators won't let you have them. There is no other reason. These vital questions will come up before Congress shortly. Watch your Representatives' actions.

Is our Navy "ship for ship as good as any?"

Our newest ships and those now building carry fourteen-inch guns. Great Britain's new ships carry fifteen-inch guns—more power, longer range—and their ships are much faster.

How about our battle cruisers?

Admiral Dewey says we need 11,000 more officers and men at once, and that many more must be made ready to man the new ships to be built. It takes four years to make a naval seaman and seven years to make an officer.

Have we scouts?

No. Our only scout cruisers are antiquated. They could not find and report the enemy. Admiral Dewey asks that six be started at once. Other high officers want twelve.

How does our fleet rank?

A few years ago our country and our other possessions were defended by the second largest Navy. In 1916 it is fourth, and still falling behind. Thus there are three nations that we may neither command nor disobey.

How big is our Army?

About 90,000 men. Only 36,500 mobile troops are in this country. The General Staff tells us that Great Britain could deliver on our coasts 170,000 troops in fifteen days. Germany 827,000 in forty-six days. Japan 238,000 in sixty-three days. Two of those na-

tions are our masters in the Atlantic. The other at present is our master in the Pacific. Should America have any master?

Have we enough field artillery?

One Russian army in one battle of the Japanese war had fifty per cent more field guns than we own or are building.

Are aircraft useful in war?

Exactly as useful as your eyes are to you. Without them an army or navy is blind. If one aeroplane, costing \$10,000, can save an \$18,000,000 dreadnought from destruction by a \$7,500 torpedo, what's the answer?

Does the United States build good aeroplanes?

By the thousand—for European armies and navies. Have we aircraft?—a few only. Serbia had more than we. France had 1,400 when the war broke out.

Who is to blame for our defenseless condition?

You! What can you do to square yourself?

You can study the facts. The foregoing are only a fraction of them. The study of them will not tend to peaceful sleep. Then you can write your Congressman and your Senators, urging the immediate acceptance of the recommendations of the General Staff for Army measures, and of the General Board for Naval Preparedness. Tell them to be guided wholly by the experts.

Don't you want to safeguard the welfare of your children?

If you have sons and daughters and look into the future you can come to but one conclusion, that adequate defense is the best method of protecting them and safeguarding the welfare of the generations to come.—From the National Society for the Advancement of Patriotic Education.

STATE NEWS

Dr. F. E. Steele of Montpelier, has announced that he is a candidate for the office of state senator on the Republican ticket.

Through the efforts of the literary Club of Alburg, a library of 100 books has been established in that place, to which will be added other books from time to time.

Mrs. Dora Brown of Jericho Center was badly scalded by the overturning of a kettle of hot lard. Her face, arm, and one shoulder were a mass of burns.

Frank S. Jackson of Jericho, representative from that town in the last session of the Vermont Legislature, has announced that he will be a candidate for state senator from Chittenden county.

The stock barn on the farm of Howard Varney in South Strafford, was destroyed by fire, the entire contents being lost, including hogs, 25 head of cattle, hay, and farming tools. The loss was partly insured.

A black bear was seen in the morning of J. M. Powers in Athens one day recently.

Martin Fisher, a native of East Burke, but for many years a resident of Lexington, Mass., was instantly killed May 25 when the horse which he was driving ran away and swung the carriage against a tree, crushing Mr. Fisher's head. Mrs. Fisher was thrown against a stone wall and badly cut, but will recover.

The machine shop and foundry of the J. W. Munkland estate at Barton, have been sold to C. P. Ford and Mr. Elliott of Massachusetts. Mr. Ford is a former Barton man. Mr. Munkland built up a big business in Barton and his bobbin machinery and lathes have a world-wide reputation.

Mrs. Ira Mather of West Brattleboro was helping to serenade Mr. and Mrs. George Kingsley Wednesday evening and went with several others to the store belonging to L. A. Smith and as they went to enter hurriedly Mrs. Mather, not knowing that the door was glass put her right hand through it, severing an artery.

The postoffice at Vergennes has been placed in the second class and the salary increased to \$2,000 a year, beginning July 1st.

Miss Clara Joanna Campbell, a superintendent of nurses at the Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington for more than 20 years, was married Friday at the home of her parents in Brandon to Archibald O. Ferguson of Burlington. They will reside in the latter city.